

the same men whom he, as speaker, had put on these committees in the last house. The republicans charged the democrats with gross unfairness in cutting down the minority membership on the most important committees.

"Mr. Underwood, the democratic leader, replied that the democrats had based the proportionate representation on the committees strictly according to the democratic majority in the house itself.

"This is, moreover," he said, "the first time a minority leader has been

permitted to name his committees and has had them adopted by the majority without dotting an 'i' or crossing a 't'."

"This statement as cheered loudly by the democrats.

"Republican Leader Mann cited several alleged inconsistencies and his arguments were seconded by Messrs. Cannon and Gardner, of Massachusetts.

"That I made mistakes is undoubtedly true," said Mr. Cannon, "but I was responsible for the organization of the committees and I did it honestly. I have no apologies to make. I would like to see the speaker or the ways and means committee or the minority leader who could organize the committees without making mistakes. I have already heard rumblings on the democratic side. But after all you are not going to be judged by the committees you name, but by the legislation you accomplish."

"Instructions to the new committees were adopted in the form of resolutions. The ways and means and appropriations committees of the house were authorized to sit during the sessions and recess of the house."

Senator Martin, in his capacity as leader, has appointed the following named senators as members of the steering committee: Culberson, of Texas; Simmons, North Carolina; Clarke, Arkansas; Bankhead, Alabama; Fletcher, Florida; Williams, Mississippi; Kern, Indiana, and Hitchcock, Nebraska. The last two represent the progressive element in the senate.

Senator Owen of Oklahoma has announced that he will introduce a new resolution providing that before the president shall issue a proclamation admitting New Mexico and Arizona into the union the people of New Mexico shall vote on a proposed amendment to the constitution. He contends that, as framed, the constitution is impossible of amendment in any important particular, and said he would not consent to its ratification unless the proposed provision is adopted.

The Washington correspondent to the Associated Press, under of April 12, says: "Two of the tariff measures which the democratic house expects to pass in advance of any general legislation were introduced by Chairman Underwood, of the committee of ways and means. They are Canadian reciprocity, following the identical lines of the McCall bill, passed last session except for a clause authorizing the president to continue negotiations for reciprocity with Canada on articles not covered by the pending agreement, and a bill to put on the free list about 100 articles now dutiable under the general tariff. Both will receive early consideration.

"The free list bill is designed to placate farmers for agricultural losses which they will sustain under the Canadian agreement, but it contains also foodstuffs and boots and shoes. The list is as follows: Plows, harrows, headers, harvesters, reapers, agricultural drills and planters, mowers, horse rakes, cultivators, threshing machines, cotton gins, farm wagons, farm carts and all other agricultural implements, including repair parts.

"Bagging for cotton, gunny cloth and fabrics suitable for baling cotton, burlaps and bags for sacking agricultural products; hoop or band iron or steel for baling cotton; wire for baling hay, straw and other agricultural products; grain leather, buff, split, rough or sole leather, bend or belting leather, boots and shoes, harness, saddles and saddlery and leather for manufactured ar-

ticles, barbed fence wire, rods, wire stands or wire rope, wire woven or manufactured for wire fencing.

"Meats of all kinds, fresh, salted, pickled, dried, smoked, dressed or undressed, prepared or preserved in any manner; bacon, ham, shoulders, lard, lard compounds and lard substitutes; sausage, buckwheat flour, corn meal, wheat and rye flour, bran, middlings, and other offals of grain; oatmeal and rolled oats, all prepared cereal foods, biscuits, bread wafers and similar articles not sweetened; timber, hewn, sided or squared, round timber used for spars or building wharves, shingles, laths, fencing posts, sawed boards, planes, deals and other lumber, rough or dressed, except ebony, mahogany, rosewood and all other cabinet woods.

"Sewing machines and salt complete the free list.

"We expect to call up the reciprocity bill Friday," said Chairman Underwood, "and will seek to pass it as soon as possible. Then will come the free list bill and following that the bill providing for statehood for Arizona and New Mexico. Reapportionment will come later."

"A bill providing for popular election of United States senators will be reported to the house and placed in passage. Discussions, it is believed, will not be prolonged and democratic leaders expect the bill will be rushed through among the first of the party measures."

The items, which the bill as introduced by Mr. Underwood proposed to place on the free list, are now included in various schedules of the Payne-Aldrich tariff law. Some are in the cotton schedule, others are in the jute schedule, others in the foodstuffs schedule and so on through the bill. A number of the duties proposed to be removed by the transfer of these articles to the free list are prohibitive. The present rates imposed by the Payne-Aldrich law on the items from which the house democrats propose to remove the duty, are:

- Plows, harrows, headers, harvesters, reapers, threshing machines, cotton gins and other agricultural implements—15 per cent ad valorem.
- Cotton bagging, gunny cloth and similar fabrics used as coverings, etc.—6-10 of a cent per square yard.
- Grain, buff and split leather—7 1/2 per cent.
- Band, bond, belting, rough and sole leather—5 per cent.
- Boots and shoes made of bovine cattle hides or skins—10 per cent.
- Harness, saddles and saddlery—20 per cent.
- Leather cut into shoe uppers or vamps, etc.—10 per cent additional duty.
- Barbed fence wire—3/4 cent a pound.
- Wire rods, strands or wire rope, woven wire for fencing and other kinds of wire suitable for fencing—3-10 to 6-10 cent per pound.
- Fresh beef, veal, mutton, lamb, pork and meats of all kinds—1 1/2 cents per pound.
- Salted, pickled, dried, dressed and preserved meats—25 per cent ad valorem.
- Bacon, hams and shoulders—4 cents a pound.
- Lard—1 1/2 cents a pound.
- Sausage and sausage meats—25 per cent ad valorem.
- Buckwheat flour, wheat flour and semolina—25 per cent.
- Cornmeal—40 cents per 100 pounds.
- Rye flour—1/2 cent a pound.
- Oatmeal and rolled oats—1 cent a pound.
- Biscuits, bread, wafers and similar articles, not sweetened—20 per cent.
- Sewing machines—45 per cent.
- Salt (in bulk)—7 cents per 100

pounds. Salt (in bags, sacks or barrels)—11 cents a pound.

Shingles—50 cents per 1,000.
Laths—20 cents per 1,000.
Timber (hewn, sided or squared, and round timber used for spars or in building wharves)—1/2 cent per cubic foot.

Sawed boards, planks, deals and other lumber (rough)—50 cents to \$1.25 per 1,000 feet board measure.

Sawed boards, planks, deals and other lumber (dressed)—50 cents to \$1.50 per 1,000 feet board measure.

In placing lumber, rough and dressed, on the free list the bill recommended by the fourteen democratic members of the committee and indorsed by the caucus leaves boards, planks, deals and other lumber of lignum vitae, lancewood, ebony, box, granadilla, mahogany, rosewood, satin and other cabinet woods exactly where they are in the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill, dutiable at 15 per cent ad valorem.

When asked about this Chairman Underwood and other democratic members of the ways and means committee explained that those woods—and they are specifically named—are not "necessities," but in the category of "luxuries," and for that reason the duty on them was not disturbed.

Under section 713 of the Payne-Aldrich law these cabinet woods—box, cedar, ebony, granadilla, lancewood, lignum vitae, mahogany, rose and satinwood, and all other cabinet woods—are admitted free of duty when brought into the country in the log, rough or hewn only. The value of these woods admitted free during the fiscal year 1910 was \$4,984,-
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